



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2007

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## **FORMER TSA SCREENER CONVICTED OF SMUGGLING CONTRABAND TO PRISONER**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Shandie R. Dove Varela, 31, of Apache Junction, AZ, was sentenced on May 3, 2007, to 12 months federal probation, by U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata. Varela had pleaded guilty on February 20, 2007, to smuggling contraband to a federal inmate in the Federal Correctional Institute in Tucson, Ariz. At the time of the offense, Varela was a Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration screener at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. Varela subsequently resigned her position with DHS, TSA.

When she pleaded guilty, Varela admitted the following facts:

On September 26, 2005, JESUS R. VARELA was an inmate in the Federal Correctional Institution Tucson, in the District of Arizona, where he was serving a sentence for Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, in CR 03-1376-TUC-FRZ. SHANDIE R. DOVE entered the Institution to visit VARELA, and while sitting next to VARELA in the visiting room, was captured on videotape surreptitiously passing pills to VARELA. VARELA grasped one pill and a second pill fell to the ground. Correctional officers immediately separated the couple, and recovered one pill from VARELA and another pill from the floor in the spot DOVE pointed out to the officer. The pills were later tested and determined to be Clonazepam, a schedule IV controlled substance.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and United States Bureau of Prisons. The prosecution is being handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: 06-8047M-TUC-FRZ (CRP)  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-123(Dove)

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